

PBS Lesson Series

ELA, Grade 2, Lesson 18

Teacher Packet

The colonies were displeased with Britain for many reasons. First, Britain made them follow rules that they didn't agree with. They also taxed goods without the colonies' permission. Finally, the colonies sent a petition to the king and he ignored it. These were some reasons why the colonies were displeased with Britain.

Morphology chart

Prefixes	Suffixes	Roots
re- again	-er Person who	

disagree

painter

distrust

redo

rebuild

declare

speaker

defrost

Morphology chart

Prefixes	Suffixes	Roots
re- again	-er Person who	

After this, the colonies were sure that the only way forward was to gain their independence from Britain. The Continental Congress selected five men to draft a document declaring America's freedom. The men all agreed that Thomas Jefferson, who had been a lawyer in Virginia, should be the main writer of the Declaration of Independence.

Jefferson worked on the Declaration of Independence for weeks. The Continental Congress wanted the declaration to state exactly why America should break its ties with Britain. They wanted a document they could show to the American people and even to people in other countries.



The Congress wanted the declaration to help Americans join together against Britain. They also wanted other countries to recognize the colonies' freedom and treat America like its own country, not like part of Britain.

Thomas Jefferson felt just as strongly about independence as the rest of the Continental Congress. He toiled day and night to get every word just right. He ended up writing the Declaration of Independence in four parts.

The first part is called the Preamble. He wrote it as an introduction to explain the purpose of the declaration. Jefferson used the next part to list the rights that all people should have. In this part, Jefferson explained that if the government tried to take these rights away from the people, the people should change the government.

Jefferson wrote the third part of the declaration to show exactly why the colonies were upset with Britain. He listed many of the ways that Britain had treated the colonies unfairly. He also described how the colonies tried to work with the King of Britain to settle the problems. Lastly, in the final section, Jefferson wrote that the colonies should now be treated just like any other independent country.

Accomplishments	Purposes
State why America should break its relationship with Britain.	1 st part told the purpose of the document.
Wanted a document to show Americans and other countries.	2 nd part told the rights all people should have.
Help join Americans against Britain.	3 rd part showed why the colonies were upset with Britain, ways they were treated unfairly, and described ways they tried to work with the king.
Wanted other countries to treat America like any other country.	4 th part said the colonies should be treated like any other country.

The Continental Congress wanted the Declaration to accomplish four main tasks. What were those four tasks? As Jefferson wrote the Declaration, it wrote it in sections for a purpose. What are the four sections and what was each section's purpose.

Morphology chart

Prefixes	Suffixes	Roots
re- again	-er person who	clar clear
dis- not, or opposite of		
de- separation, away from, or intensity		
un not, or opposite of		